

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

This report was presented, as follows:—  
GNOSALL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR, 1903.

The following table gives the statistics of mortality for the year as compared with the average of the seven preceding years, and with England and Wales for 1903.

	1903.	Average of 7 pre- ceding years.	England and Wales.
Deaths per 1,000 of population	12.3	14.0	15.4
Births per 1,000 of population	27.2	23.9	23.4
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases per 1,000 of population	0.8	0.9	1.46
Deaths of Infants under one year, per 1,000 births regis- tered	102	98	132

The death rate at all ages is below the average for the district and also below that of England and Wales, the latter being in its turn the lowest on record. The number of deaths of infants is above the average, there having been a somewhat larger number than usual of premature births.

The deaths from zymotic diseases were four in number, three of which were due to whooping cough, and one to diarrhoea.

In table No. IV., accompanying this report, will be found the causes of death and the number of deaths in the various parishes composing the district notifiable infectious diseases.

The number of these occurring in the district throughout the year is shown in the following table.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.
Houses infected	26	2
Number of Cases	40	2
Number of Deaths	0	0

Scarlet fever has been prevalent in one part or other of the district throughout nearly the whole of the year, but the cases have been scattered and never reached the proportions of an epidemic in any one place. In Table III. will be found the names of the parishes affected and the number of cases notified in each.

Of diphtheria only two cases have been notified.

Disinfection of Houses after Infectious Disease.—For this purpose a Thresh's portable disinfectant, which is used with a 2 per cent. solution of formalin, is now in use in place of the older method of burning sulphur candles. This, I consider to be a distinct advance, as the following reasons may fairly claim to show. It necessitates a personal visit from the sanitary inspector and his personal supervision, so that the disinfection is not likely to be passed over. It is more efficacious, as with the spray the disinfecting solution can be carried directly into every chink and crevice of a room, so ensuring that the infective organisms are actually immersed in a solution of a strong antiseptic. It can be much more quickly done, as there is no necessity to take up time in trying to make the rooms air-tight before use, and the rooms can be ventilated and re-occupied soon after, which is a distinct advantage in the houses of the working classes, where bedroom accommodation is limited. Though this method may, therefore, be considered to be satisfactory, so far as it goes the advantage gained thereby is somewhat lessened by the fact that there is still no absolutely satisfactory provisions made for the disinfection of clothing, beddings, and so on. Instructions are given to the people to disinfect these so far as they can by washing in a disinfectant solution, but there is no doubt that in many instances the instructions are impeded, and coupling this with the imperfect isolation, which I have on previous occasions brought under notice, it is little to be wondered at that infectious diseases when once introduced linger long in the district.

The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.—This district being purely agricultural contains no fact-

ories or workshops necessitating a detailed report under this Act. The bakehouses of the district I find to be in a satisfactory condition.

The following is an account of the sanitary work done throughout the year, 1903, as furnished by the Sanitary Inspector.

	Formal notices Nuisances	Inspections of, by authority abat'd
Foul conditions of houses	6	6
Slaughter houses	2	2
Canal boats	20	0
Ashpits and privies	2	0
Faults in house drains	5	5
Water supply to houses	16	12
Totals	51	25

Samples of water taken for analysis 12  
Houses disinfected after infectious disease 30

Water Supply and Sewerage.—These questions are still in urgent need of attention. A considerable number of houses in Gnosall, Gnosall Heath and at Coton, are without a water supply on the premises, and can only procure one by fetching it in some instances from a considerable distance, while in addition to this the analysis of the various samples taken from wells in this neighbourhood throughout the year shows that the quality of the water available is not everything that might be wished. The erection and occupation of new houses is still adding to the difficulty of sewerage disposal.

Herewith I append the usual tabular statements of sickness and mortality for the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

R. S. STEELE, M.B., Medical Officer of Health.  
Gnosall, Feb. 24th, 1904.

### VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1903 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

1896:—Population, 4,980; births, 115; rate, 22.8; deaths, 4; rate per 1,000 births, 78; at all ages, 61; rate, 12.1.

1897:—Population, 5,008; births, 138; rate, 27.6; deaths, 5; rate per 1,000 births, 36; at all ages, 79; rate, 15.8.

1898:—Population, 5,020; births, 111; rate, 22.0; deaths, 10; rate per 1,000 births, 90; at all ages, 55; rate, 10.9.

1899:—Population, 5,014; births, 121; rate, 24.1; deaths, 15; rate per 1,000 births, 125; at all ages, 69; rate, 13.4.

1900:—Population, 5,020; births, 109; rate, 21.5; deaths, 13; rate per 1,000 births, 110; at all ages, 60; rate, 11.9.

1901:—Population, 4,707; births, 116; rate, 24.6; deaths, 16; rate per 1,000 births, 137; at all ages, 57; rate, 12.1.

1902:—Population, 4,700; births, 129; rate, 27.4; deaths, 15; rate per 1,000 births, 116; at all ages, 75; rate, 15.9.

1893-1902:—Population, 4,920; births, 119; rate, 23.9; deaths, 11; rate per 1,000 births, 98; at all ages, 65; rate, 14.0.

1903:—Population, 4,700; births, 127; rate, 27.2; deaths, 13; rate per 1,000 births, 102; at all ages, 58; rate, 12.3.

At Census of 1901:—Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 25,083; total population at all ages, 4,707; number of inhabited houses, 1,015; average number of persons per house, 4.1.

### VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1903 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

1898: Gnosall—Births, 63; deaths at all ages, 22. Adbaston—Births, 10; deaths at all ages, 7. High Offley—Births, 14; deaths at all ages, 7. Norbury—Births, 8; deaths at all ages, 2. Forton—Births, 8; deaths at all ages, 4. Church Eaton—Births, 8; deaths at all ages, 8.

1899: Gnosall—Births, 52; deaths at all ages, 31. Adbaston—Births, 22; deaths at all ages, 14. High Offley—Births, 11; deaths at all ages, 11. Norbury—Births, 8; deaths at all ages, 5. Forton—Births, 10; deaths at all ages, 3. Church Eaton—Births, 18; deaths at all ages, 5.

1900: Gnosall—Births, 42; deaths at all ages, 19. Adbaston—Births, 16; deaths at all ages, 9. High Offley—Births, 20; deaths at all ages, 15. Norbury—Births, 10; deaths at all ages, 3. Forton—Births, 8; deaths at all ages, 8. Church Eaton—Births, 13; deaths at all ages, 6.

1901: Gnosall—Births, 56; deaths at all ages, 33. Adbaston—Births, 18; deaths at all ages, 7. High Offley—Births, 9; deaths at all ages, 4. Norbury—

Births, 14; deaths at all ages, 3. Forton—Births, 8; deaths at all ages, 4. Church Eaton—Births, 11; deaths at all ages, 6.

1902: Gnosall—Births, 49; deaths at all ages, 30. Adbaston—Births, 24; deaths at all ages, 6. High Offley—Births, 20; deaths at all ages, 11. Norbury—Births, 9; deaths at all ages, 3. Forton—Births, 14; deaths at all ages, 17. Church Eaton—Births, 13; deaths at all ages, 8.

1893-1902: Gnosall—Births, 52; deaths at all ages, 27. Adbaston—Births, 18; deaths at all ages, 9. High Offley—Births, 14; deaths at all ages, 7. Norbury—Births, 9; deaths at all ages, 3. Forton—Births, 9; deaths at all ages, 7. Church Eaton—Births, 10; deaths at all ages, 6.

1903: Gnosall—Births, 53; deaths at all ages, 33. Adbaston—Births, 15; death at all ages, 5; High Offley—Births, 23; deaths at all ages, 6. Norbury—Births, 8; deaths at all ages, 1. Forton—Births, 9; deaths at all ages, 3; Church Eaton—Births, 19; deaths at all ages, 10.

### CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1903.

Diphtheria, at all ages, 2. Scarlet Fever, at all ages, 40. Adbaston 6, Gnosall 23, High Offley 8 and Norbury 3.

### CAUSES OF DEATH DURING YEAR 1903.

Whooping-Cough, all ages, 3: Gnosall 2 and Church Eaton 1. Diarrhoea, all ages, 1: Forton. Enteritis, all ages, 2: Adbaston 1 and Gnosall 1. Other tubercular diseases, all ages, 2: High Offley 1 and Church Eaton 1. Cancer, malignant disease, all ages, 1: Gnosall. Bronchitis—all ages, 7: Adbaston 1, Forton 1, Gnosall 3, High Offley 1 and Church Eaton 1. Pneumonia—all ages, 5: Gnosall 3, High Offley 1, and Norbury 1. Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver—all ages, 3: Gnosall 2 and Church Eaton 1. Venereal diseases—all ages, 1: Adbaston. Premature birth, 3: Gnosall 2 and Church Eaton 1. Diseases and accidents of parturition—all ages, 1: High Offley. Heart diseases—all ages, 6: Adbaston 1, Gnosall 3, and Church Eaton 2. Accidents—all ages, 1: Gnosall. All other causes—all ages, 22: Adbaston 1, Forton 1, Gnosall 15, High Offley 2, and Church Eaton 3.

